

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 AGR-10 /060 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5964

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POUCHED INFO ALL CGS IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJECT: SETTLEMENT REACHED IN GENERAL LABOR
AND TRADES DISPUTE

REF: OTTAWA 975

1. TREASURY BOARD AND PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE OF CANADA (PSAC) REPRESENTING 18,600 MEMBERS GENERAL LABOR AND TRADES GROUP (BLT) REACHED MEDIATED SETTLEMENT ON MARCH 20 JUST PRIOR TO OPENING OF EMERGENCY DEBATE IN COMMONS ON THIS MONTH-OLD DISPUTE. PAY PROVISIONS IN 26-MONTH CONTRACT, RETROACTIVE TO NOVEMBER 1974 WHEN PREVIOUS AGREEMENT EXPIRED, CALL FOR 18 PERCENT AVERAGE WAGE INCREASE FOR FIRST 14 MONTHS PLUS 11.25 PERCENT IN FINAL 12 MONTHS. SKILLED TRADES WILL OBTAIN SOMEWHAT BIGGER INCREASES THAN OTHER GROUPS BUT WILL NOT REACH ORIGINAL UNION OBJECTIVE OF 90 PERCENT COMPARABILITY WITH PRIVATE SECTOR WAGE LEVELS. PSAC HOPES TO RECTIFY THIS DISPARITY IN SUBSEQUENT CONTRACT FOLLOWING TREASURY BOARD AGREEMENT TO REVISE COMPONENTS USED IN FUTURE WAGE SURVEYS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND PROVINCIAL WAGE SETTLEMENTS HERETOFORE EXCLUDED. THIS PROVISION PLUS C\$600 LUMP SUM RETROACTIVE PAY FOR ALL MEMBERS OF BARGAINING UNIT CONSIDERED MAJOR GAIN BY PSAC NEGOTIATORS. PSAC PRESIDENT EDWARDS READILY

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ADMITTED TO LABATT THAT SETTLEMENT IS LESS THAN UNION

HAD EXPECTED BUT TREASURY BOARD TOOK HARD LINE IN FACE
OF CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS IN POSTAL SECTOR AND THOSE
UPCOMING WITH OTHER FEDERAL EMPLOYEE GROUPS.

2. GLT AGREEMENT MUST BE RATIFIED BY MEMBERSHIP BEFORE
BECOMING EFFECTIVE. PSAC LEADERS ISSUED ORDERS TO END
ROTATING STRIKES AND ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT MEMBERS WILL
APPROVE AGREEMENT ALTHOUGH THERE ARE POCKETS OF
RESISTANCE, ESPECIALLY IN WINNIPEG, WHICH COULD
DELAY RETURN TO WORK BY STRIKING GRAIN WEIGHERS AND
SAMPLERS THAT CAUSED SERIOUS INTERRUPTION OF GRAIN
SHIPMENTS.
PORTER

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